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earliest known assemblage of *domestic* animals, the horse, pig, goat, sheep, and ox," and the cakes and seeds found in their dwellings prove that they were acquainted with agriculture. Nearly contemporaneous, or perhaps earlier, lived a similar race in Scandinavia, in whose refuse heaps occur the bones of the Great Auk (*Alca impennis*), which, during this century, has become extinct in Europe and North America, and the Oyster, which they largely fed on, has also disappeared from the Baltic Sea. "The habits of this race were probably similar to the savages of Tierra del Fuego at the present day."

The "Bronze-using Folk arrived in Europe before the dawn of History, and lived there up to the time when history begins. . . . They were acquainted with the use of the potter's wheel, and were in the habit of burning their dead." They used the horse, and had flocks and herds.

The Iron Age came in before the Romans invaded Northern Europe, as they met the Gauls riding in chariots, armed with iron weapons, on the battle-field.

How far these distinctions apply to other countries than Europe, even in the old world, and how far they agree with the very incomplete history of our Aboriginal refuse-heaps, mounds, and relics of American prehistoric races, remains yet to be shown.

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MICROSCOPY.

The Volvox and its Parasite.—In examining with the microscope some specimens of "Volvox globator," one was found containing one of the Rotifera, a female of *Notommata Parasitica* (mentioned by Pritchard as sometimes found in such a situation). When first seen it was feeding, picking out the green masses composing the Volvox, and swallowing them, occasionally shifting its position and selecting a fresh spot. Two eggs had been deposited, and another could be seen in the ovary; they were of a reddish tint, and filled with granules. There was no sign yet of organized structure.

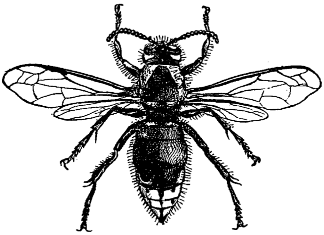
Twenty-four hours after, the Rotifer was dead, but the young could now be plainly seen moving in the eggs, and cilia were in rapid vibration at two distinct points. While still under examination, one of the young broke through the envelope surrounding him, and, after a few energetic struggles, was free and swimming rapidly about the interior of his prison, but did not appear to make any attempt to leave it. The egg-shell or membrane left behind was very delicate and transparent, without dots or markings, the aperture broken off by the animal being plainly visible. The other egg would have soon hatched, as the animal was in active motion within it, but unfortunately the water leaking out of the live-box containing it, put an end to the observation. The Volvox did not seem disturbed by its strange occupant, but continued its stately revolutions as though they were not present.—B. Webb, Jr.

NATURAL HISTORY CALENDAR.

The Insects of July.—During mid-summer the bees and wasps are very busy building their nests and rearing their young. The Humble-bees, late in June and the first of this month, send out their first broods of workers, and about the middle of the month the second lot of eggs are laid, which produce the smaller-sized females and males, while those eggs laid late in the month and early in August, produce the larger-sized queens, which soon hatch. These hybernate. The habits of their peculiar parasite, *Apathus*, an insect which closely resembles the Humble-bee, are still unknown.

The Leaf-cutter Bee (*Megachile*) may be seen flying about with pieces of rose-leaf, with which she builds, for a period of twenty days, her cells, often thirty in number, using for this purpose, according to Mr. F. W. Putnam's estimate,* at least one thousand pieces! The bees referred to "worked so diligently that they ruined five or six rose-bushes, not leaving a single unblighted leaf uncut, and were then forced to take the leaves of a locust tree as a substitute."

Fig. 1.



The Paper-making Wasps, of which *Vespa maculata* (Fig. 1), the "White-faced Wasp" is our largest species, are now completing their nests, and feeding their young with flies. The Solitary Wasp (*Odynerus albophaleratus*) fills its earthen cells with minute caterpillars, which it paralyzes with its poisonous sting. A group of mud-cells, each stored with food for the single larva within, we once found concealed in a deserted nest of the American Tent Caterpillar. Numerous species of Wood Wasps (*Crabronidæ*) are engaged in tunnelling the stems of the blackberry, the elder, and syringa, and enlarging and refitting old nail-holes, and burrowing in rotten wood, storing their cells with flies, caterpillars, aphides, and spiders, according to the habit

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* See Proceedings of the Essex Institute, vol. iv. p. 105.